

Gladman pulls plug on almost 500 properties Relief as developer sent packing over village homes plan

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A developer which wanted to build almost 500 homes in three villages has withdrawn a trio of appeals seeking planning permission.

Gladman Developments Ltd had wanted to build the houses in villages surrounding Ashford.

It submitted plans for 125 homes in Brabourne Lees, 245 in Charing and 110 in Biddenden - but all were rejected by Ashford Borough Council (ABC)

Gladman subsequently went to appeal on all three cases, challenging the council's available land supply - all of which were defended by the authority which was supported by parish councils and the Campaign to Protect Rural England (CPRE).

Earlier this year planning inspectors held detailed public inquiries into two of Gladman's appeals - the third was scheduled for October - as well as hearings



Cllr Jill Leyland

into the council's new Local Plan.

Following the hearings, inspectors issued an advice note confirming ABC does have an adequate five-year housing land supply.

Now, having already withdrawn its appeal on the Biddenden site, the developer has pulled the plug on both other schemes too.

Jill Leyland of Charing parish council said: "The site Gladman wanted to develop off Pluckley Road was completely unsuitable in many ways.

"It would have added additional

traffic to an already overused road; it is a real relief to know the threat has been lifted.

"We just hope that Gladman and other developers like them now realise how much opposition they will meet if they try to develop unsuitable sites in this part of the country."

Cllr Paul Clokie, portfolio holder for planning at Ashford council said: "Understandably we are very pleased with the result.

"The council cannot prevent applications being made on sites that are not allocated for development in its Local Plan, and any applications that may, are considered on merit at that time.

"However the council will continue to take a Local Plan led approach, including consultation with local residents, to meet the development needs of the borough and we will strongly resist any inappropriate or unjustified development."

Gladman Developments said it did not want to comment.



Plans for 110 homes in Biddenden were submitted - but they have now been binned